

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4413

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ROME 13495

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO OVIP (CARTER, LILLIAN)

SUBJ: MISS LILLIAN'S TRIP: CERES AWARD

REF: STATE 179415

1. HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CERES MEDAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY  
AT FAO TOOK PLACE JULY 21 WITH MISS LILLIAN, AMBASSADOR GARDNER  
AND RICHARD HARDEN ON PODIUM ALONG WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL PHILLIPS AND WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VOGEL.  
CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION FOR FAO PERM REPS AND SENIOR FAO EMPLOYEES  
AND GRACEFUL LUNCHEON BY DG FOR 13 MEMBERS OF MISS LILLIAN'S  
PARTY AND EMBASSY AND SIMILAR NUMBER SENIOR FAO OFFICIALS  
FOLLOWED. CONSIDERABLE PRESS ATTENTION EVIDENT.  
2. AFTER RECEIPT OF MEDAL, MISS LILLIAN GAVE WITHEXCELLENT EFFECT  
SPEECH CONTAINED IN REFTEL.  
DG'S PRESENTATION SPEECH FOLLOWS:

A. QUOTE : MRS. CARTER, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AND DEAR FRIENDS,  
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B. IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE, MRS.CARTER, TO WELCOME YOU TO THE  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS.

C. THE OCCASION OF YOUR VISIT, AND THE PRESENTATION TO YOU OF  
A SYMBOL OF OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION, WILL REMAIN A TREASURED

MEMORY OF ALL OF US WHO ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY.

D. YOUR NAME AND REPUTATION EVOKE THE MOST NOBLE QUALITIES. WE HAVE DEDICATED TO YOU THIS CERES MEDAL, NAMED AFTER THE ANCIENT ROMAN GODDESS, CERES, WHO TAUGHT MANKIND HOW TO WORK THE LAND, MAKE IT BEAR FRUIT AND WATCHED OVER HER PEOPLE, ALL MANKIND. THIS IS BUT A TOKEN, MADAM, OF OUR RECOGNITION THAT YOU SHARE FAO'S DREAM OF A WORLD FREE FROM HUNGER AND WANT AND THE LOSS OF HUMAN DIGNITY THAT SUCH PRIVATION BRINGS WITH IT.

E. WHILE WE TODAY ASSOCIATE YOU PARTICULARLY WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF FAO, TO THE WHOLE WORLD YOU ARE IN THE FIRST PLACE THE GREAT MOTHER OF A DISTINGUISHED SON. I AM SURE PRESIDENT CARTER MUST FIND THE GREATEST SATISFACTION IN REFLECTING THAT YOUR NAME AND REPUTATION ARE ALMOST AS WIDELY KNOWN AS HIS, ARE HELD IN THE SAME RESPECT AND EVOKE AT THE SAME TIME A UNIVERSAL SENSE OF WARMTH AND AFFECTION.

F. YOUR PRESENCE HERE SYMBOLIZES, TOO, THE PROFOUND HISTORICAL LINKS WHICH BIND YOUR COUNTRY AND THIS ORGANIZATION. FAO WAS BORN IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE 1943 CONFERENCE HELD IN HOT SPRINGS, VIRGINIA, ON THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT. FROM ITS EARLIEST DAYS, THE ORGANIZATION HAS ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE GLOBAL PROBLEMS OF ENSURING ADEQUATE FOOD FOR THE POOREST COUNTRIES AND THE POOREST PEOPLE. AS THE WORLD'S MAJOR GRANARY, AND ITS FIRST ECONOMIC POWER, THE UNITED STATES HAS CONSISTENTLY PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE WORK OF FAO. IT IS NO COINCIDENCE

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THAT YOUR COUNTRY HAS PROVIDED TWO OF THE DIRECTORS-GENERAL OF FAO, A NUMBER OF DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL AND NUMEROUS SENIOR OFFICIALS.

G. I HOPE THAT YOUR VISIT TO FAO TODAY CAN NOT ONLY BE TAKEN AS A MARK OF YOUR PERSONAL CONFIDENCE AND INTEREST IN OUR AIMS AND ACTIVITIES, BUT WILL LEAD TO A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND A GREATER SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING BY ITS PEOPLE.

H. IT IS NOT ONLY AS A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AND AS A REMARKABLE INDIVIDUAL THAT WE WISH TO HONOUR YOU TODAY. WE WISH, THROUGH YOU, TO EMPHASIZE CERTAIN PRINCIPLES OF THE WIDEST HUMAN SIGNIFICANCE. YOUR OWN WORK, PARTICULARLY AS REFLECTED IN YOUR YEARS IN INDIA AND YOUR FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE SAHELIAN COUNTRIES IS EVIDENT TESTIMONY OF YOUR CONCERN FOR THE RURAL, THE IMPOVERISHED AND THE UNDERNOURISHED. YOU WILL KNOW, MADAM, THAT YOUR CONCERNS ARE FULLY SHARED BY FAO. IN PASSING, I MAY DRAW TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT NEXT YEAR WE SHALL HOLD A WORLD CONFERENCE ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE OBJECTIVE OF WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY TO REDRESS THE WRONGS OF THE RURAL WORLD.

I. YOU HAVE SHOWN US THAT NEITHER AGE, NOR STAGE IN LIFE,  
NOR ORIGINS ARE A BARRIER TO CARING FOR PEOPLE LESS FORTUNATE  
THAN OURSELVES. CARING NOT ONLY IN OUR HEARTS, BUT SHOWING  
OUR CARING TO THE POINT THAT SELF-SACRIFICE IS NO SACRIFICE,  
BECAUSE IT IS A JOY.

J. I CAN DO NO BETTER THAN TO REPEAT THE WORDS USED BY YOUR  
OWN SON, THE PRESIDENT, WHEN HE RECENTLY ADDRESSED THE NATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES.

K. MOTHER WAS BORN IN 1898. MY FATHER DIED WHEN MOTHER WAS  
ALMOST 60. SHE HAD BEEN A REGISTERED NURSE. AND IT WAS A VERY  
GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR HER TO RETIRE. SHE WOULD HAVE HAD A PLEASANT  
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LIFE IN A SMALL TOWN, BUT AFTER TWO OR THREE MONTHS, MY MOTHER  
BEGAN TO SEE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL AND STATEWIDE AND  
REGIONAL AND THEN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS THAT STRETCHED  
HER MIND AND STRETCHED HER HEART. AT THIS TIME, SHE IS A  
YOUNGER PERSON THAN I AM. AND NEVER DOES A DAY GO BY THAT MOTHER  
DOES NOT GET UP IN THE MORNING, AS DO MANY OF YOU, AND SAY 'WHAT  
CAN I DO THIS DAY TO MAKE MY LIFE MORE MEANINGFUL, TO SHOW OTHER  
PEOPLE THAT I CARE FOR THEM, AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WORLD  
IN WHICH I LIVE'".

L. MAY I NOW PRESENT THE MEDAL TO YOU MADAM.  
I DO SO WITH PROFOUND PLEASURE AND GREAT RESPECT FOR YOU AND THE  
IDEALS BY WHICH YOU LIVE, AND WITH A SENSE OF THE HONOUR THAT  
YOU BRING TO THIS HOUSE BY YOUR PRESENCE. UNQUOTE. GARDNER

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